

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please enter the following amended claims:**

4. (Amended) An inlet arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the injector has inert gas injector vents (15) which point towards its airlock in addition to injector vents (14) which point towards the inside of the furnace.

A1 5. (Amended) An inlet arrangement according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the stages of seals is made up of stacked graphite seals (17A and/or 17B).

A2 7. (Amended) A furnace for drawing fiber (2') including an enclosure (4') at the top of which is an opening to allow insertion of a preform, which moves vertically downwards in translation during fiber drawing, and a preform inlet arrangement (13') above the enclosure and including an injector (6') situated at the level of the preform inlet opening to inject inert gas onto the perimeter of the preform to fill the enclosure of the furnace, and at least one seal (17B) fixed by means of a seal support above the injector and through which the preform passes, whose cylindrical main body (9') it surrounds to prevent circulation of gas between the surrounding environment and the inside of the furnace at its level, characterized in that said furnace includes an inlet arrangement according to claim 1.